Import of agricultural products from Myanmar

188. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the Indo-Myanmar Trade Treaty is not strictly followed between the two countries;

(b) whether Government have any plan to purchase agricultural products specially rice which is good quality and cheaper in price also; and

(c) if so, by when it will be started; and, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The bilateral trade between India and Myanmar through the border points of Moreh and Tamu is taking place smoothly as per the Border Trade Agreement (BTA).

(b) and (c) The Government may from time to time approve proposals for import of rice and other agricultural products from various countries including Myanmar. However, physical procurement depends upon domestic requirements, commercial considerations, logistical feasibility and availability of infrastructural facilities.

Export growth rate

189. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem "Get ready for single-digit export growth rate this year" which appeared in the Business Standard dated the 7th June, 2001;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken/are proposed to be taken to address the problems mentioned in the newsitem so that the export growth does not take a back seat during the current fiscal?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. While an export growth rate of 19.83% has been achieved during 2000-01, it would be too early to predict the export growth rate for the year 2001-02, as export performance *inter-alia* is influenced by international market conditions, export competitiveness of the domestic industry and that of the competitors in other countries etc. However, a number of measures have been undertaken to sustain the export growth which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralisations, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multi-lateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. Special Economic Zones are being set up to further boost the exports.

Achievement of industrial growth rate

190. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the industrial production growth rate has slowed down during 2000-2001 in comparison to previous fiscal year;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for slow progress in industrial production;

(c) whether the growth in the industrial production rate would be achieved as targeted during the current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The overall growth industrial production during 2000-01 was 5.0% which is lower in comparison to 6.7% growth achieved during 1999-2000.

(b) The following factors were *inter-alia* responsible for slow growth in industrial production:

- Persistence of Infrastructure bottlenecks and failure to attract private sector investment in infrastructure projects.
- Slow down in general investment climate.